

Youth Advisory Board  
Minutes  
September 4, 2014

**Present: Barbara Ruhe, Ken Lesser, Kathy Bagley, Rachael Sunny, Leslie Esoin, Eric Knapp, Marie Alfonso, and Emily Daigle.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**Introductions:**

- New YAB Members
  - At the September 2, 2014, Town Council Meeting 4 new members were appointed to the Youth Advisory Board:
    - Marie Alfonso
    - Colleen Keane
    - Ken Lesser
    - Michael Scavetta
- Mission of Youth Advisory Board
  - Barbara provided brief history of Youth Advisory Board
- Current Board Makeup
  - Barbara is looking for someone to co-chair with her. Leslie Esoin expressed an interest.
  - According to Article IX the Youth Advisory Board shall consist of 18 members. This number has been of much discussion amongst the board since it is difficult to meet quorum with an 18 member board. Ken Lesser made a motion to "Reduce the board membership composition of 18 to 13." Eric Knapp seconded. All were in favor.
  - If the accepted motion were to be accepted by council then it would mean that we would only need to fill two vacancies (one for member at large and one for youth)
  - Kathy and Rachael will work on getting this proposal for a new board makeup to Gerri Roberts so that she, as the YAB liaison, can bring the nomination forward to council. First need to talk to Town Manager first to see if a change in board composition has to go to Town Attorney before Town Council.
  - Need to make sure in reducing the board membership composition that we are still meeting the sectors that CASAC requires of us in order to receive grant funding
    - Youth, parent, business, media, school, youth serving organization, law enforcement, religious/fraternal organization, civic/volunteer groups, healthcare professional, state/local/tribal governmental agency with expertise in field of substance abuse, other organization involved in reducing substance abuse
- 2014-2015 Meeting Dates
  - All meetings are held at 7:00 pm in Conference Room 1 on Lower Level of Town Hall unless otherwise noted
  - October 2, 2014
  - November 6, 2014
  - December 11, 2014
  - January 8, 2015

- February 5, 2015
- March 5, 2015
- April 2, 2015
- May 7, 2015 – Annual Youth Volunteer Recognition Night – Community Center
- June 4, 2015
- No meetings July and August
- September 3, 2015
- October 1, 2015
- November 5, 2015
- December 10, 2015

#### **Financial Report:**

- Rachael Sunny noted that there is currently \$8,088.01 in the Youth Advisory Board account

#### **Old Business:**

- Youth Employment Skills (YES) Summer 2014
  - Social and Youth Services hosted the YES Program again this past summer
  - Colleen Keane was hired on as a contractor to manage the program. Amy Krebs was also hired to help assistant with the program.
  - Nine students participated ranging in ages from 15-18 (8 are students at WHS and 1 attends a magnet school is Hartford). Each student received \$400 for participation.
  - Program ran from July 7-July 31<sup>st</sup> Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
  - Students prepared cover letters and resumes, acquired interview skills, listened to guest speakers talk about their careers, and went on site visits to Dutch Point Credit Union, the Creamery, Manchester Community College, CT Children's Medical Center, Lincoln Institute, and the Wethersfield Fire House
- Grants
  - State Department of Education Youth Services Bureau Grant – Social and Youth Services was awarded \$21,807 for fiscal year 2014-2015. This money will be used to support youth services staff salaries.
  - State Department of Education Enhancement Grant – Social and Youth Services was awarded \$6,171 for fiscal year 2014-2015. This grant money was used to financially support the YES Summer 2014 Program.
  - Capital Areas Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) - This grant will be due in October. In the past have been awarded money to help support Crossroads at SDMS, a special program at SDMS, curriculum, etc. This year the state is requiring though that the money be used for evidence based programming.
  - Juvenile Review Board (JRB) –JRB is made up of police, school administrators, DCF, Juvenile Probation officer, clergy, and youth services staff. Youth in town under age of 18 who have been arrested for something other than a felony can come before the JRB. Most often are required to do community service, write letters of apology, pay for damage, attend programs, participate in counseling, etc. We are hoping that CT Youth Services Association will be awarded a grant from the State Department of Children and Families that will allow for them to administer small grants to financially support local JRB's including Wethersfield.

**New Business:**

- Assistant Director Updates
  - Kathy Bagley announced that the process is coming along regarding hiring a new Assistant Director for Social and Youth Services
- Fall CROSSROADS
  - Rachael Sunny announced that the Fall session of Crossroads will begin on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Will be offering Police Adventures, Cooking, Step Dance, Lights/Camera/Action, and Media Center.
  - Also will be starting a Girls Circle this fall at SDMS using curriculum purchased from last year's CASAC grant.
- Friday Night Hang Out
  - Will be piloting a program this fall called Friday Night Hang Out. Open only to 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Dates are 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14, 12/5 & 12/19. On those dates from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm parents will be able to drop off their 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the Community Center so that they can “hang out.” Cost is \$15 for the 6 nights and youth can register online. Students will be able to use equipment in gym or just sit and chat with friends. Social Services is hoping that YAB can help to financially support the program in the beginning by purchasing beverages, candy and pizza that can then be sold at the Friday Night Hang Out.
- Other Potential Projects
  - Create a youth volunteer manual that would not only talk about what it means to volunteer but would also include a list of places in the area where youth could volunteer complete with contact info. Manual would also talk about how YAB recognizes all youth volunteers in town and would direct them as to how they could go about nominating themselves.
  - Scholarship – great discussion was held as to whether YAB could offer scholarships to graduating seniors. Potential criteria were discussed including the fact that the scholarship(s) might be awarded to students that were going to a community college. Kathy Bagley needs to look into whether in YAB fund money can be used to award scholarships.
  - Leadership Workshop – While many of the programs associated with Social and Youth Services focus on “at risk youth” it was discussed that it would be great to do something that would benefit all of Wethersfield's youth. Will begin exploring the potential of hosting a youth leadership workshop/summit as a potential project.
  - Conduct a Survey – it was expressed that we really need to get more input from youth as to what it is that they want. Talked about creating a survey and then handing the survey out at football games.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next meeting is October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Rachael Sunny